

Questions about the Mandatory Food Scraps Program? We've Got Answers!

Tell me more about the mandatory law and why I received this letter!

California passed a new state law, AB 1826 (Mandatory Organics Recycling), requiring that businesses separate their food scraps from the rest of their waste stream and have them collected. The City of Sunnyvale has identified your business as one requiring food scraps collection service.

Which businesses are required to have separate food scraps collection service?

Starting April 2016, AB 1826 will require businesses that generate eight cubic yards of food scraps to arrange for collection services. Effective January 2017 this requirement will extend to businesses that generate 4 cubic yards of food scraps.

How do I set up a food scraps program, is it complicated?

The City is here to simplify the process and walk you through the set-up. But first, please attend the training workshop on March 9 at LinkedIn to get a good overview. After the workshop, City staff will contact you to schedule a site visit at your business. Sign-ups will also be available at the workshop. After the site visit, a food scraps bin will be ordered and service will start.

What material goes into the food scraps bin?

We will go over all the details when we meet with you, but in general material such as:

Trimmings from food preparation, leftover or spoiled foods & plate scrapings



Food soiled paper



Meat and dairy



Compostable plates, bowls, cups with Biodegradable Products Institute Certification (BPI)



Can I put landscape trimmings into the food scrap bin?

No, the bin is meant for food scraps only. If you have large volumes of landscape trimmings, contact Utility Customer Service at (408) 730-7400 to request a separate wood or green waste box.

What do the food scraps get turned into?

Believe it or not, most of the food scraps are processed and recovered for animal feed. The material that doesn't go to animal feed is turned into compost, and made into soil amendment for local farms, landscapes and gardens. It is **very important** to keep the material clean and free of contaminants such as glass and plastics, forks and knives, gloves from food prep, and other non-organic material.



How can I get employees to participate in our food scraps program?

Educate, educate, educate! This is the key to a successful program. Make sure they know which materials can be recovered and where to place the food scraps for temporary storage and ultimate collection.

And we will help you out because we have swag (educational swag that is)! Yep, we have posters and stickers to help you get the right information out there to staff! Go to Recycling.inSunnyvale.com and in Quick Links click on *Commercial Food Scraps* to download posters and order free bin stickers.

How do I know what size food scraps bin to order?

Bin size will depend on the volume of food scraps your business generates. General guidelines are:

If your current garbage service level is:	Then order this size food scraps bin (at minimum):
8 – 12 cubic yards/week	1 cubic yard
13 – 21 cubic yards/week	2 cubic yard
21 cubic yards+/week	3 cubic yard

Does the City provide technical assistance?

You bet! In addition to the 1:1 meeting we will schedule with you, we can provide a waste audit specific to your business, which includes a detailed report with estimated annual costs and recommendations on ways to reduce waste. Staff can also help you troubleshoot areas you are having challenges with. To request a waste assessment go to *Contact Us* at Recycling.inSunnyvale.com or call (408) 730-7484.